

A N N U A L R E P O R T F O R

- 1 9 5 3 -

TO

THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:—

Colonel R.F. Harrison,

CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE:—

Mr. S.G. Parkes.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

Doctor J.J. Murray, M.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR:—

Mr. J.W. Holmes, M.S.I.A.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my Report on the health of
your district for 1953.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's population estimate:- 17,790.

BIRTHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	151	135	286.
Illegitimate.	7	5	12.
	158	140	298.

STILL-BIRTHS.

Legitimate.	2	1	3.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	2	1	3.

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 16.8. 1952. 18.9.

Still-Birth rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births, 10.0. 31.1.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
DEATHS.	89	81	170..

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 9.6. 11.9.

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion. Nil. Nil.

Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births. Nil. Nil.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year.	9	1	10
Deaths of legitimate infants.	9	1	10
Deaths of illegitimate infants.	-	-	-

Death rates of Infants under one year:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	34.	29.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	35.	27.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	Nil.	83.

Deaths from Cancer. (all ages)	20.
Deaths from Measles. (all ages).	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough. (all ages).	-
Deaths from Gastro-enteritis. (Under 2 years).	2.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	8	-	8
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Comparison with certain figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u>	<u>District.</u>
		<u>1953.</u>	<u>1952.</u>
Birth Rate.	15.5	16.8	18.9
Death Rate.	11.4	9.6	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate.	26.8	34.	29.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table gives the causes of death during 1953.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	2	2
Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.	-	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
(Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1	3
(Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	1	4
(Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	6	6
(Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2
(Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	2	3	5
(Leukaemia and aleukaemia.	-	-	-
(Inclusive totals.	7	13	20
Diabetes.	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	18	28
Coronary disease, angina.	14	6	20
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	2	4
Other heart disease.	15	21	36
Other circulatory disease.	2	4	6
Influenza.	2	5	7
Pneumonia.	6	1	7
Bronchitis.	6	2	8
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	2	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	3	-	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate.	3	-	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	9	2	11
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	1	1
All other accidents.	5	2	7
Suicide.	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-

89	81	170.
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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Infectious Disease Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

No difficulty has been found in obtaining admissions, and the transport system is satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

A total of 2,808 houses with a population of 9,432 is supplied from public mains.

2,098 dwellings with 6,952 persons are dependent on well water supplies. Many of these are unfit for drinking.

Piped water from Cheltenham and Worcester Corporations augment the local main supply.

The River Severn supply for Coventry, will, it is hoped, assist in supplying some villages now using well water.

There is no evidence of plumbo-solvency in the district.

Approximately twelve houses are supplied with stand-pipes.

A scheme for a supply of water to the Parishes of:- Spetchley, Bredicot, Broughton Hackett, Upton Snodsbury, Grafton Flyford, North Piddle, Dormston, Kington, Flyford Flavel, Naunton Beauchamp, Abberton, Bishampton, Throckmorton, Hill and Moor, Fladbury, Cropthorne and Charlton has begun. Some sections are nearing completion and will, it is hoped, begin supplying in 1954.

It is estimated that upon completion of the entire scheme 3,000 persons will have access to piped water.

ANALYSES.

RAW WATER.

Bacteriological examination.	- 11.	Satisfactory	- 11.	} Including independent Parish spring supplies.
		Unsatisfactory	- -.	
Chemical examination.	- 11.	Satisfactory	- 10.	}
		Unsatisfactory	- 1.	

TREATED WATER.

Satisfactory reports from Cheltenham Corporation.

PARISH AND POPULATION SUPPLIES.

PARISH.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.		FROM WELLS, SPRINGS, ETC.	
	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.
BREDON.	345	1,175	26	104
GT. COMBERTON.	54	189	19	70
LT. COMBERTON.	41	160	37	148
ECKINGTON.	187	635	36	126
PEOPLETON.	81	270	4	20
PINVIN.	161	510	18	68
WICK.	75	195	12	60
WYRE.	102	350	8	32
WHITTINGTON.	113	360	11	44
PERSHORE.	1,233	3,950	13	52
BIRLINGHAM.	21	74	80	282
BREDON'S NORTON.	8	38	49	173
DEFFORD.	93	360	34	136
STOULTON.	80	310	43	144

PARISH AND POPULATION SUPPLIES. (continued).

PARISH.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.		FROM WELLS, SPRINGS, ETC	
	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	POPULATION.
BESFORD.	27	108	13.	52
NORTON.	73	292	117	468
DRAKES BROUGHTON and WADBOROUGH.	114	456	43	172
FLADBURY.	--	--	159	477
CHARLTON.	--	--	129	383
CROPTHORNE.	--	--	144	532
ELMLEY CASTLE.	--	--	115	445
UPTON SNODSBURY.	--	--	96	288
HILL AND MOOR.	--	--	138	414
OTHER PARISHES.	--	--	754	2,262
TOTALS.	2,808	9,432	2,098	6,952

HOUSING.

During 1953, the Council erected 86 houses, making a total of 427 constructed since the War. 35 were built privately..

The nissen huts occupied by six families at the W.A.A.F. Site, Pinvin are gradually being demolished as houses are found, seven families having been re-housed during the year.

It is noted that about 300 dwellings in the district are in a bad state of repair, forming part of a national problem, the solution of which is at present very difficult.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In addition to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector's Staff under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1928 - 38. There are thirty registered premises for the sale of ice-cream which are regularly supervised.

There are no slaughter houses in this area.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES.	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF -		
		INSPEC- TIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	OWNERS PROSECUTED
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	5.	4.	--	--
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	57.	35.	--	--
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises).	--	--	--	--
TOTALS.	62	39	--	--

(2) Cases in which defects were found:--

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND --				No. of cases in which pro- ecutions were insti- tuted.
	Found.	Remedied.	REFERRED --		
			To H.M. Insp'r.	By H.M. Insp'r.	
Want of Cleanliness.	2	3 *	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (a) insufficient.	-	1 *	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	-	1	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers.)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	2	5	-	1	-

* 1 brought forward from previous year.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES - SECTIONS 110 AND 111.

There were no instances of this during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than tuberculosis) during 1953.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.</u>	<u>ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	7.	2.	-
Measles.	314.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	13.	-	-
Acute pneumonia.	3.	1.	-
Meningococcal infections.	1.	1.	-
Acute polio-myelitis.	1.	-	-
Erysipelas.	1.	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1953.

AGE GROUPS.	SCARLET FEVER.	ACUTE PNEUMONIA.	MEASLES.	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.	WHOOPIG COUGH.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	ERYSIPELAS.
YEARS.							
0 -	1	1	7	1	1	1	1
1 -	1	1	40	1	5	1	1
3 -	2	1	73	1	5	1	1
5 -	3	1	170	1	2	1	1
10 -	1	1	18	1	1	1	1
15 -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25 -	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
25 and over.	1	2	5	1	1	1	1
TOTALS.	7.	3.	314.	1.	13.	1.	1.

Acute Polio-myelitis.

This case was of a man in an agricultural hostel who was notified after he had attended Hospital for slight muscular weakness of the left lower leg. He had no history of any previous constitutional disturbance, nor had there been any contact with any other cases, as far as could be ascertained. He made a complete recovery.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.

Seven cases occurred, no deaths.

Measles.

314 cases of a mild character affecting chiefly the 5 - 10 age group. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the numbers immunised during the year.

<u>Numbers immunised</u> <u>0 - 4 inclusive.</u>	<u>Numbers immunised</u> <u>5 - 14 inclusive.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
160.	13.	173.

(Above figures include cases immunised by Private Practitioners).

School reinforcing doses:- 260.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table includes notifications and deaths arising from this disease during 1953.

AGE GROUPS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS -								
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	6	-	2	-	2	-	-
	13		2		2		-	

Number of deaths from tuberculosis. - 2.
Number notified by death. - nil.

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Total number of tuberculosis notifications.	14	15
Total number of deaths.	3	2

The death rate - 9.6 - is the lowest recorded since 1940, 66% of the deaths were of persons aged 65 years and over.

The birth rate was 15.5 as against 15.3 for the preceding year.

The number of infants deaths for every 1,000 births was 34 as against the previous annual figure of 29. The actual number of deaths was 10.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified was 15 against 14 and the number of deaths 2 as against 3 in 1952.

The Housing programme is pursued energetically and is undoubtedly a prime factor in the improvement and maintenance of personal and public health.

I am indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Staff for their kind assistance during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.J. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Sanitary work undertaken by Officers of my Department during the year ended 31st December, 1953.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following schemes have been constructed during the year:-

Broughton Hackett.

Scheme for the village involving settlement and aeration.

Defford.

Duplication of existing works to give facilities for 28 houses.

Eckington.

The scheme for the village involving pumping, settlement and rotary distribution is nearing completion.

Pershore.

The scheme for the Town of Pershore is still under consideration.

Bredon.

A complete new disposal works is urgently needed to deal with the combined foul and surface water system.

Pershore (Abbey Grounds).

The disposal works serving the Council's development on the Abbey Grounds Estate is in urgent need of enlargement.

DRAINAGE.

Naunton Beauchamp.

Approximately 170 yards of 12" and 9" sewer were laid to overcome a nuisance near the highway.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The work of cleansing septic tanks and small sewage disposal works was carried out under Contract at quarterly intervals by a private contractor, namely - Messrs. C.W. Harrison (Contractors) Ltd., of Headington, Oxford.

The County Council undertake the cleansing of street gullies in the Town of Pershore at the moment.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The new tip at the Brickworks (dis-used), Drakes Broughton was opened during the year. Fly nuisance was experienced during the summer months, but in view of improvements effected at the tip, it is hoped this will be diminished.

Contracts have been undertaken with the Royal Engineers and the Worcestershire Regiment for the twice-weekly removal of refuse from their camps at Norton Barracks.

A further contract has been undertaken with the Royal Air Force Station, Pershore, for the thrice-weekly removal of refuse.

SALVAGE.

Owing to the decline in the market price of paper, the revenue was £472, compared with £581 during 1952 and £1,413 in 1951.

Scrap metal and other materials continue to be salvaged.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply taken from Overbury Springs is of good quality, this water supply is untreated. The supplies obtained from neighbouring Corporations has similarly been of good quality.

The number of new consumers connected to the mains during the year is 75.

Trouble was again experienced with the maintenance of the public supply due to the inadequacy of the Pershore service reservoir.

The Regional Water Supply Scheme is nearing completion in the northern part of the district.

Analyses - Well Water.

Number of samples submitted for analysis - 23.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Chemical.	7.	16.
Bacteriological.	7.	16.

DISINFECTION.

Approximately fifteen disinfections were carried out using formaldehyde gas and formalin spray, primarily as a result of Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis.

Arrangements for steam disinfection of bedding and clothing were made in several instances.

RODENT CONTROL.

The service has continued to operate smoothly, the Operative using A.N.T.U., Red Squill and Zinc Phosphide poisons.

Number of infestations dealt with at private premises.	-	1,055.
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises.	-	37.
Number of other infestations dealt with.	-	7.
Number of complaints received.	-	98.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are the following food premises in the district:-

Grocers.	40,
Greengrocers.	10,
Sweet Shops.	8,
Butchers.	8,
Bakers and Confectioners.	9,
Fried Fish Shops.	1,
Wet Fish Shops.	2,
Cafes.	10,
Licensed Premises including Clubs.	63.

Food preparation premises in the district are inspected regularly.

Two premises were improved by informal action.

Milk Supply.

Six dairymen (other than cowkeepers) are registered. Fifteen inspections were made during the year.

The following foods have been voluntarily surrendered, inspected and condemned.

Pineapples.	4,701 boxes, (average 20 per box).
Pineapple (rings).	439 - 30 lb. tins.
Peaches.	47,262 lbs.
Cherries.	7 - 14 oz. tins.
Evaporated milk.	17 - 14½ oz tins.
Meat Loaf.	6 - 12 oz. tins.
Pork Luncheon Meat.	1 - 4 lbs. tin.
" " "	4 - 7 oz. rings.
Pork Brawn.	1 - 8 oz. tin.
Beans.	1 - 8 oz. tin.
Corned Beef.	1 - 6 lb. tin.
Peas.	1 - 29 oz. tin.
"	9 - 10 oz. tins.
Steak.	1 - 1 lb. tin.
Soup.	3 - 10½ oz. tins.
Grape Fruit Segments.	22 - 12 oz. tins.
Baby Food.	7 - 4½ oz. tins.
Tomatoes.	9 - 14 oz. tins.
Damsons.	4 - 20 oz. tins.
Beef. (home killed).	80 lbs.

Public Abattoir.

Slaughtering and allocation has been carried out at Stratford-on-Avon during the past year. No trouble has been experienced.

The Ministry of Food have intimated that centralized slaughtering will cease in July, 1954. It is hoped to arrange meetings between the Butchers' Association and the Local Authorities concerned to discuss the arrangements to be brought into force when control ends. It is anticipated that no more than four Butchers in the Pershore Area will wish to undertake individual slaughtering. It appears that local arrangements will present no great difficulty.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR (OTHER THAN HOUSING).

Number of premises visited.	720. (approx.)
Defects or nuisances found.	19.
Defects or nuisances abated.	19.
Number of Informal Notices served.	17.
Number of Statutory Notices served.	2.
New drainage to sewers.	35.
New drainage to septic tanks.	20.
Drains repaired.	—.
Obstructed drains cleared.	30. (approx.)
Drains tested.	55.
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals dealt with.	—.
Number of Shops visited.	19.
Cases under the Shops Act, 1934. (informal).	—.
Number of Factories inspected.	39.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year —

(a) by the local authority.	86.
(b) by other local authorities.	—.
(c) by other bodies or persons.	35.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year —

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	66.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation.	6.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	60.

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices —

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers.	41.
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year —

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	—.
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Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	5.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	1.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act,
1936. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	1.
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Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	39.
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Number of such persons concerned in such cases.	156.
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NEW HOUSING.

The Council have built 86 new houses and 35 have been built privately.

Total post-war development:-

Local Authority Development.	427.
Private Development.	136.
Total houses owned by the Local Authority.	811.

Applicants re-housed in permanent houses:-

Bredon.	9.
Pershore.	51.
Eckington.	1.
Stoulton.	9.
Whittington.	1.
Broughton Hackett.	1.
Pinvin.	19.
Norton.	7.
Bricklehampton.	1.
Wick.	3.
Throckmorton.	1.

Applicants re-housed in temporary accommodation:-

Hurstmead and Stoulton Hostels.	13.
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Number of applicants for housing accommodation at 31.12.53.

With separate accommodation.	289.
Sharing accommodation.	262.

551.

(Note - This total includes applicants who have applied
for more than one Parish and the total applicants may
therefore be regarded as - 428.)

HOUSING RURAL SURVEY.

Little progress has been made towards completing this Survey
and approximately 200 houses remain to be inspected.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.

Number of repair licences issued	14.
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HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Eight applications for Improvement Grants were approved during
the year. (one brought forward from previous year).

There has been a reduction in the number of applicants for new houses, but the total on the list is still in excess of 400.

The proposed scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the Town of Pershore is of prime importance.

A priority list of village sewerage and sewage disposal schemes was considered by the Council during the year and it is hoped that sewerage schemes for certain of the villages in which housing is required will be proceeded with in the near future.

Although all household and trade refuse is at present being disposed of satisfactorily at Drakes Broughton it is anticipated that the old workings will be completely filled in three to four years time and the question of disposal will again arise.

The solution is probably the construction of a refuse destructor, possibility in conjunction with adjoining Authorities.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J.W. HOLMES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

